TOAST PTA Minutes

March 20th, 2017 Meeting

1. Call to order
2. Approval for February’s meeting minutes: Budget correction
3. Pre-k Registration reminder from district representatives
4. Kidney Foundation Presentation- Carol Lafleur spoke on behalf of the Northeast Kidney Foundation about bringing kidney health presentations to classrooms or doing a whole school assembly as well as possibly doing a fundraiser like Pennies for Patients with TOAST.
5. Principal’s Report- Deb Whipple spoke on behalf of Principal Brown

* New text the principal Google voice number
* Coffee chat with Ms. Brown 3.31 7:30-8 in the library
* School sign is fixed
* Working with Brian Dengler to fix the flag pole- Parent voiced concerns that this needs to be done by a professional and does not want the pole just painted over or incorrectly fixed.
* Pick up and drop off Traffic concerns as well as not enough staff to prevent any issues.

Discussed working with APD and city for better options.

-Parents will be receiving more DOJO messages from the principal and teachers regarding academics and events (Parent voiced concerns over permission slips being sent home the day before a trip as well as not receiving notification about school events)

6. Treasurer’s report: Deposited almost $2000 from Read A Thon and LifeTouch. Checks made out for mini-grants

7. Read A Thon Results: 10,150 Minutes were read. Although the school goal of 2500 was not met, Ms. Brown graciously agreed to have her face pied in April with a pizza lunch for students 3/31. Students who raised a set amount will have book fair money $5 which will double to $10 for the BOGO. $25 Visa gift cards were also issued as prizes.

8. Spring Fundraisers: Plant bulbs, Discount Cards were discussed. Parent brought up concerns about some of the fundraisers being out of budget for the population. Agreed on doing the discount cards. Giffy’s is coming the 19th of May with 2050 dinners from 4 to sold out. as another fundraiser. Will need volunteers for set up. School spirit wear shirts were brought up for field day. Holly is going to purchase Smencils to sell during the Book Fair and set times. Discussed the Flag Fundraiser items and a possible solution to the district now fixing the flag pole, we could possibly donate a portion of our proceeds to Wounded Warrior or another program to assist Vets.

9. Founder’s Day: 20 attendees from TOAST to honor Holly and Jamaris for their hard work and dedication to TOAST.

10. Minigrants: $114 to support the first grade field trip. Ms. Hernandez requested $300 for the basketball and cheerleaders end of season celebration. Ms. Martin is preparing the cost to go to Hyde Park. Bussing would be the only real cost. We approved providing snack for grades 3-6 during testing to help alleviate stress and anxiety as the tests could take all day.

11. Scholarship: Changing the wording to preference will be given to those who plan to complete STEM coursework as well as career education as some students may go into a related work education program.

12. School district walk through

-Spoke about consistent communication from school in a timely fashion.

-Some parents may not have knowledge of the resources available to them.

-Parent involvement and language barriers. Albany is working to remedy this by holding parent engagement workshops (WHMT Parent Series) to be held at TOAST and other schools throughout the district.

-RTI involvement materials are not clear for parents as well as the criteria for how students are selected for extra support.

-Parents brought up concerns of significant behaviors in the classroom that could be impacting students and ensuring students are properly placed.

13. Parent Concerns/Questions/Old Business:

-Nanotech volunteers coming to the school? How is the school partnering with Albany Nanotech and Albany College of Pharmacy.

-Spirit Week Basketball- Parent wanted to know if there was a way to set up a basketball game with Hackett as has been held in the past.